

Pan Flu



Pan flu is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new influenza virus appears or “emerges” in the human population, causes serious illness, and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide. Past pandemics have led to high levels of illness, death, social disruption, and economic loss.

Things to Know:

- It is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be.
- Whenever and wherever a pandemic starts, everyone around the world is at risk.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

How is this different from a normal influenza outbreak?: Seasonal outbreaks of influenza are caused by subtypes of influenza viruses that are already in existence among people, whereas pandemic outbreaks are caused by new subtypes or by subtypes that have never circulated among people or that have not circulated among people for a long time. Also, pandemics do not necessarily occur during what is considered the “normal” influenza season.

Are we prepared for an influenza pandemic?: Plans are currently being developed at the state, federal and even international level to respond to the next influenza pandemic. These plans deal with a variety of issues to determine how to make the best use of available resources to protect people from infection, to care for patients, and to limit the spread of infection as much as possible.

Are there enough resources available to handle an influenza pandemic? An influenza pandemic would require a large-scale response, both in terms of personnel and material resources. A great deal of work is being done now to develop and plan for those resources, and to identify where and how they will be accessed.

For more information on pandemic influenza preparedness, visit the IDHS website at: www.in.gov/dhs.

